Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63023 JICARILLA PEAK

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered and Special Status Species and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Office for implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field Assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on my review of the Assessment Team's recommendation and other relevant data and information, I have determined that the sites within 63023 JICARILLA PEAK meet the Standards of Rangeland Health.

/s/ Jerry Dutchover .	08/02/2012
Assistant Field Manager	Date

Standards of Public Land Health
Evaluation of 63023 JICARILLA PEAK Allotment
[02/14/2012]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 3 study sites within 63023 JICARILLA PEAK. The assessments looked at the Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of each study site. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. The summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
63023-IDSU-A101	X			X			N/A		
63023-IDSU-A102 (*)	X			X	*		N/A		
63023-IDSU-A106	X			X			N/A		

The (*) indicates that the assessment had one or more indicator(s) rated moderate/extreme or extreme. These indicators are:

- Invasive Plants

These indicators by themselves are not enough to rate the site as not meeting a standard but may warrant future monitoring.

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on Jicarilla Peak, allotment 63023. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic functions and 13 for biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected on 3 trend plot locations within this allotment were utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell Field Office, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. These collections were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 to 10 years.

This allotment contains 4,558 acres of public land scattered among 46,416 acres of private lands. The studies are located on a Gravelly CP-3 site and on two Loamy CP-3 sites. This is an “C” (Custodial) category allotment.

Recommendations:

The study located in the Northwest Pasture (#102) was rated as Moderate to Extreme departure from the ecological site for Invasive Plants, based on the amount and distribution of pinon, juniper, gambles oak, cholla and algerita. The Team did recommend that the area be mapped for a potential vegetation treatment, such as a prescribed fire, that would bring the site back in line with the ecological site description. Due to the small amount of public land within this area (240 acres), the team also recommends to coordinate with the private land owner, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the adjacent US Forest Service, to plan and implement the vegetation treatment.

As the majority of the indicators fall in the 'None to Slight' or 'Slight to Moderate' category, at this location and at the other two study locations, this allotment is rated overall as "Meeting" the standard for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grasscover and good plant composition remains.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 63023-IDSU-A101			
Legal Land Desc	SWSE 9 0050S 0130E Meridian 23	Acreage	240
Ecosite	070CY109NM LOAMY CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060005030 HASPAROS		
Observers	ARNOLD & VINSON	Observation Date	02/14/2012
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	009	Soil Taxon Name	DARVEY
Texture Class	NM632 L	Soil Phase	DARVEY-PASTURA
Texture Modifier	NM632 LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation	7.97	NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	5.98
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	11.94	NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	9.19
Disturbances and Animal Use:			

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:						
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground				X	

Comments:						
S H	Gullies					X
Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation					X
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:						
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount				X	
Comments:						
B	Annual Production			X		
Comments:	Drought has caused low production					
B	Invasive Plants				X	
Comments:	Cholla and yucca					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants				X	
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat					X

Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations					X
Comments:						
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	NA					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	NA					

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	4	6
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	7	4
B	Biotic	0	0	1	5	4

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	0	10
Hydrologic		0	0	11
Biotic		0	1	9

Site Notes:

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 63023-IDSU-A102			
Legal Land Desc	SENE 31 0050S 0130E Meridian 23	Acreage	127
Ecosite	070CY109NM LOAMY CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060005010 ENCINOSO		
Observers	ARNOLD & VINSON	Observation Date	02/14/2012
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	037	Soil Taxon Name	MOKIAK
Texture Class	NM632 CBV-L	Soil Phase	MOKIAK-STROUPE-ROC
Texture Modifier	NM632 STONY LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation	7.97	NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	5.98
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	11.94	NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	9.19
Disturbances and Animal Use:			

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:						
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground				X	

Comments:						
S H	Gullies					X
Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:						
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount				X	
Comments:						
B	Annual Production			X		
Comments:	Reduced production due to drought					
B	Invasive Plants		X			
Comments:	Pinon, juniper, gamble oak, cholla and algerita					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants				X	
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts				X	
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat					X

Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations					X
Comments:						
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	NA					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	NA					

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	6	4
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	8	3
B	Biotic	0	1	1	5	4

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	0	10
Hydrologic		0	0	11
Biotic	The level of pinon, juniper, gamble oak, cholla and algerita under the Invasive Species indicator moves this factor away from a "Meets" determination. The team recommends considering a vegetation treatment, for example a prescribed burn, to reduce the populations of invasives. To accomplish this, coordination between the private land owner, the US Forest Service, BLM and the NRCS could work	1	1	9

	together to accomplish a change. This indicator shall be monitored.			
Site Notes:				

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 63023-IDSU-A106			
Legal Land Desc	SESE 12 0050S 0140E Meridian 23	Acreage	4192
Ecosite	070CY119NM GRAVELLY CP-3	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060005020 ARROYO DEL MACHO		
Observers	ARNOLD & VINSON	Observation Date	02/14/2012
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	030	Soil Taxon Name	HOGADERO
Texture Class	NM632 GR-L	Soil Phase	HOGADERO-PENA
Texture Modifier	NM632 LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation	7.97	NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	5.98
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	11.94	NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	9.19
Disturbances and Animal Use:	No cattle observed at this location. Drought and past grazing has resulted in short grass in all areas.		

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills				X	
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:						
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground				X	
Comments:						
S H	Gullies				X	

Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:						
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount				X	
Comments:						
B	Annual Production			X		
Comments:	Low annual production due to drought.					
B	Invasive Plants				X	
Comments:	Yucca and cholla					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants				X	
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts				X	
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations					X

Comments:	Observed pronghorn in the vicinity.					
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	NA					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	NA					

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	8	2
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	10	1
B	Biotic	0	0	1	6	4

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	0	10
Hydrologic		0	0	11
Biotic		0	1	10

Site Notes: